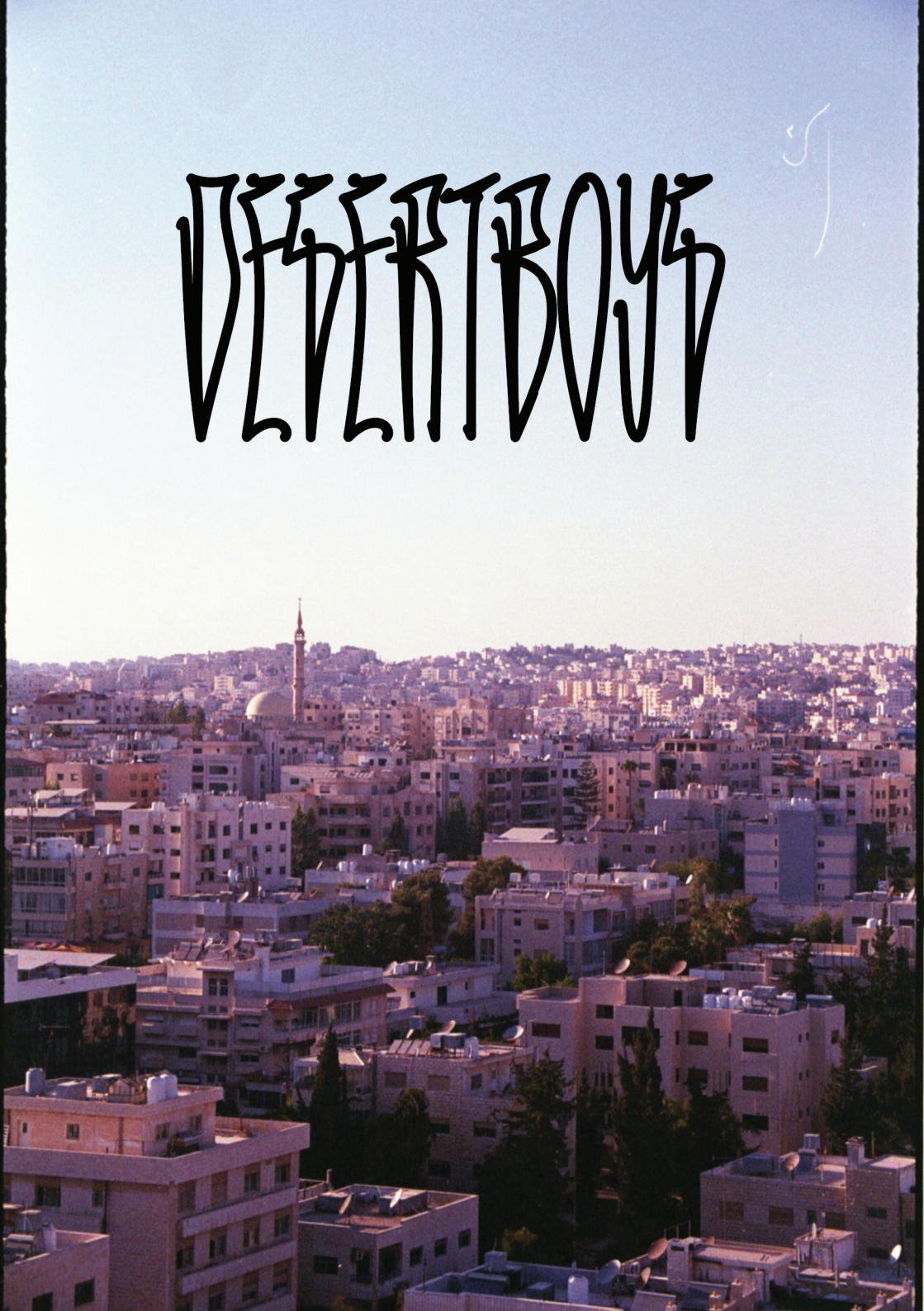
DESERTBOYS



Dedicated to my friends and family around the world who push me to create and explore every single day.

I was sitting outside about a week ago with the unintentional purpose of realizing the combined taste of Jordanian chai and a Marlboro Gold as the sun began its final stretch over the Mediterranean Sea. It wasn't the best, but I needed it regardless. I was tired, and I had work to do. The nighttime has never been neutral in my life. It brings pain or it brings joy with little margin in between. But it always brings something that I remember. The nighttime is when I do my best work, when I come up with the ideas that've kept me going for the past 6 years. Ideas realized during the day are fleeting, often useless, and based on the euphoria of immediate awareness that fades with my memory just like the paint on the 1993 Hilux down the street I fawn over sometimes.

As I sat on a metal chair surrounded by the slow buzz of traffic and distant conversation punctuated by the 9:30 Isha prayer, a black silhouette entered the periphery of my vision. Cats are fucking everywhere in Jordan. I'd seen hundreds before I'd seen this one, and the novelty of their presence in such numbers had worn off days before. But this one was watching closely, perched on the corner of a wall dividing my home from another. He wasn't asking for food as many do, but he wasn't running away at my approach either. I sat back down.

Cats in the Levant don't care about your problems. They sleep when we're awake, dormant except to check another aluminum dumpster for yesterday's shawarma. They come out at night in masse, moving through the streets like quadruped snakes unbothered by the human traffic surrounding them. They eat, drink, fuck, sleep, kill, die, and live where we're not supposed to as humans. In alleys, boxes, pipes, and caves, these creatures live a life parallel to our own. They don't hate us, but they don't love us either, using our refuse as shelter and sustenance in the absence of a smaller animal to kill. Cats don't care about how hard school is sometimes, the girl I wanted to talk to back home but never did, the uncertainty of absence from anything familiar, or any other human problem I face. Their aim is simple; to survive in the streets of Jordan isn't easy for anyone. But they make it work. There is a certain nobility in survival, to exist for nothing more than the sake of existence is something that keeps us all alive sometimes.

6/14/2021

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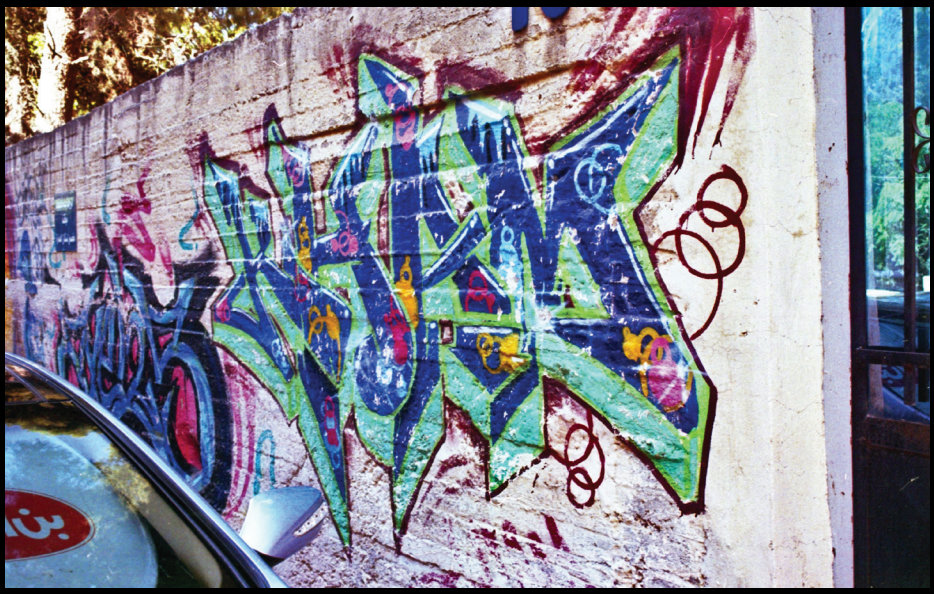

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JOSE, CA / JUN 10 • OAKLAND, CA / JUN 12 • SACRAMENTO, CA / JUN 14 •
PHOENIX, AZ / JUN 16 • LAS VEGAS, NV / JUN 20, 21 • LOS ANGELES,
CA / JUN 24 • SEATTLE, WA / JUN 25 • PORTLAND, OR / JUN 27
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6 • HOUSTON, TX / JUL 8 • NEW ORLEANS, LA / JUL 11 • TAMPA
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NC / JUL 20 • COLUMBUS, OH / JUL 22, 23, 28 • CHICAGO, IL
26 • ST. PAUL, MN / JUL 29 • MILWAUKEE, WI / AUG 2 • DETR
MI / AUG 4 • WASHINGTON, DC / AUG 8, 9, 11 • PHILADELPHIA, PA
AUG 13 • NASHVILLE, TN / SEP 7 • NEWARK, NJ / SEP 9 • BUFFALO, NY
SEP 11, 12 • BROOKLYN, NY / SEP 15, 16 • UNIONDALE, NY / SEP 19
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